JOHN DERST Cashin



OUR NEW YORK LETTER.

SEA FOOD HAS BECOME POPULAR IN AMERICA.

Fales-Curtis Holds That the Example of the Chinese Has Been Followed in This Matter and Gives Some Interesting In-

[Special Correspondence.]

New York, July -- The American people seem to be rapidly following in the footsteps of the Chinese, who for at least twenty centuries have given fish the first place in gastronomy and hygiene. Economy has much to do with this ever increasing demand for sea food, for the increasing number of persons who make a careful study of gastronomy have for some time been calling attention to the numerous advantages of fish over meat. In the numerous works of Edward Atkinson on the subject of food he dwells on this point at great length, explaining that the waste portions of meat are much larger in proportion than those of fish. In purchasing meat the consumer has to pay for a large percentage of bone, gristle, super-flous fat, and even skin, while in buying fish there is very little but solid food to be paid for. Moreover, fish, of what may be called equal grades with the various kinds of meat in the market, may be purchased for con-

siderably less per pound.
The reasons are obvious: what is called "game," F.G. Expensive thing to produce, and has to a Frated from the time of birth to the most of slaughter, each day of care adding to its cost. Fish, on the other hand, simply "grows" like Topsy. All that man has to do hay reach forth his hand (with a net or a red and line) and take in the food which nature provides in abundance in all her streams and bodies of water.

Just now is the fisherman's harvest day.

Not only is the time of year the pleasantest

for "going down to the sea in ships" or boats, but now the finny tribes are in their best condition, and, as if realizing this fact, they are coming, after the annual custom, up towards the shores to be caught. Wherefore thousands of professional fishermen are at work and hundreds of amateurs are at play around New York just now.

Owing to the constantly increasing demand just mentioned, the business of catching fish by wholesale is constantly enlarging. When a few years ago a comparatively small fleet of schooners was ample to supply the New York market with what fish could be sold, there are now many scores of large steamers fitted out for long cruises and large catches.

Of equal importance are the increased facilities for keeping and preserving all forms of animal tissue, whether fish, flesh or fowl. In every city are now cold storages, on every railroad refrigerator cars, and even at points of production, such as the salmon, trout and pompano districts, are ice houses where the largest denizen of the deep can be frozen solid in a half hour. On this account the trio of great fishes mentioned are to be had in every first class restaurant of the country. This business of congelation is not always a success, however. Last week Henry Guy Carlton, who is an epicure as well as an au-thor, gave a dinner to Bill Nye in which the leading dish was a large pompano, brought by rail from New Orleans. Through some mistake the ice gave out on the journey and the fish arrived in New York in very bad condition. The cook was a stranger to the southern delicacy, and imagining that it was a game fish in both senses, cooked and served it. Each guest took one bite and became horribly silent. Carlton, who had not tasted

it, asked the company:
"How do you think that was brought on here?" intending probably to explain the re-frigerator service between the gulf and the Nye looked up very solemnly and answer-

ed, "I think you brought it in on a hearse!"

The New Yorker has issued a new trick, which was taught by the Mongolian colony in Mott street four years ago. At that time there was a phenomenally large catch of mackerel, over seventeen million coming to Fulton fish market alone. The price fell from twelve to one cent a pound and then dropped to two fishes for a cent. Even upon this basis nearly a million were thrown away into the East river to relieve the market. The moment the Chinese merchants heard of the affair they began buying mackerel and in two days had purchased two million mackerel. These they carted to the Chinese quar-ter and preserved in various ways. What with smoking, drying, salting, pickling, sous-ing and desocating, they converted their neighborhood for a fortnight into a veritable Billingsgate. They stored the preserved fish for a few weeks, during which time prices went back to their normal figure. Then what they had bought for less than a cent a pound, they sold at wholesale for eight and nine up to fifteen cents a pound.

Altogether they cleared over sixty thou-sand dellars upon the speculation. The success of this experiment opened the eyes of American business men. From that time on they have kept the fish market carefully in view. When prices fall below a certain limit, they buy large quantities and keep them until the market has risen again. With such fishes as salmon, trout, Spanish mackerel, red snapper and pompano there is a good day with the increase of facilities for preservation. This process has gone so far that on several occasions when there has been a heavy run of codish in the lower bay of New York in December and January and of bluefish and bass in the early summer, speculators have realized handsomely by buying large amounts of fish and keeping them for a few weeks at a time.

The influence of the foreign upon the native population is well shown in the change of popular taste regarding fishes. Ten years ago the ray, rule or skute, as it is variously called, was soldom if ever used as food When caught by the angler it was used as bait or fertilizer, or else thrown overboard in disgust. The French, and in fact all the Latin races, have long esteemed it as an article of diet, and in such dishes as bouiliaterisse and

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## Ayer's Pills,

PREPARED BY Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass. Sold by all Druggists and Dealers in Medicine. rate au beurra noir, present it regularly upon hills of fare. The American, who is nothing if not insitative, has accepted this fashion and now puts the once objectionable ray upon every fish stand in the large cities of the seaboard. The same change marks the use of the sea robin and of the small fry use of the sea robin and of the small fry which nowadays are denominated, according to their size, either white balt or panfish. As a result of this foreign influence, the fish market has been greatly increased both in the variety of the fishes sold as well as in the amount of supply and demand.

To this should in justice be added the efforts of the famous Ichthyophagus club, of which Fish Commissioner Eugene G. Blackford is the head and front. This curious organization makes it a regular practice to

ganization makes it a regular practice to cook and eat eveny form of marine life, and more especially those which are strange or have never before bear so employed. Through their efforts chiefly have the snapper, mud turtle, bullhead, frog back and whitebait been popularized as articles of food. They have even gone so far as to give what may be termed a gastronomic status to such sub-stances as sharks' fins, devil fishes, squids, beche de la mer, razor clams and porpoise

The market at present is crowded with the king of sait water-the bluefish. It visits the Atlantic coast in countless shoals, following the scup, or porgy, upon which it preys. So absolute is that relation that whenever an angler in the late spring catches a porgy, the dealers immediately announce to their customers that they will have bluefish on their stands in two weeks. The rule has not failed since the pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock in 1630 and adopted the Indian name scuppang for the fish, which today has shorten itself into scup in New England and porgy in Connecticut and New York. The supply of bluefish seldom runs low. It is caught in vast numbers by the professional fishermen from Norfolk to Passamaquoddy, and in ap-preciable quantities by amateur Izaak Waltons. At such popular places as Rockaway, Fire Island, Montauk and Narragansett Pier the average catch of the amateurs is so large that nearly all turn an honest penny in selling all but the few they take home. At Fire Island and Rockaway alone hundreds of fishing parties every year pay all their expenses and realize a handsome profit by selling the results of a hard day's work with rod and

The bluefish is not only the gamest of all the finny tribes of the ocean, but also one of the best for the table. It is superb cooked in every style of civilized culinary art, but it is unapproachable when steamed, as is done in Japan. Cleaned, scraped and exposed to hot steam for twenty minutes, it makes a dish whose delicacy and nutritionsness cannot be excelled. Another new way of cooking it is to "plank" it, just like a shad. A third and even more novel style is the bluefish dumpling, whose original the French found, or discovered, in Tong-Kwin in their last war. In this exquisite dish the raw flesh, broken into small fragments and seasoned with salt, black and red pepper and Worcestershire sauce, is covered with the thinnest dough and boiled or steamed for an hour. The result cannot be described, but must be eaten by the ex-

The porgy, always popular but never fully appreciated, is also a prominent feature in the market. It is growing in importance with the years. Formerly it could be ob-tained only a month in each year. It reached the coast in vast armies, spawned and then vanished into the ocean. During this brief period it was caught in such numbers that the price fell to a mere song. After it was gone the price rose for a few days and then came to an end. Some ingenious Rhode Islander perceived this peculiarity and built a huge pond, into which the living contents of all the nets were poured. The captives thrived in their jail and retained their bealth up to the moment they were taken out of the water and sent to the market.

The remarkable success of the idea led others into the same business until today there are at least a thousand porgy pounds on the New England coast. Of almost equal advantage was the fish pier. This is practically a pound run out from the shore in which there are fykes so arranged that the fish which en-counter the obstruction as they swim along in quest of food can enter it and once in cannot escape. Some of these on the Long Island coast have caught as high as ten thousand fish in a day. Even the unluckiest catch larings in more than enough to pay for their cost and for the time and labor of the proprietor. What with the porgy pound and the fish pier, the porgy is now a feature in the market for several months and affords a wholesome and inexpensive food to the popu-

The crustacea are as popular and abundant as ever. The crab, however, is supplanting the lobster in public esteem. The change is to be congratulated upon. Owing to the immense demand for the former in past years, the favorite articulate was in a fair way to become extinct. The size fell season after season in consequence until the majority of those caught averaged about a pound in weight. The danger became so great that the Maine legislature passed a law prohibit-ing the catching of lobsters below ten inches in length, and other states followed in the steps of that commonwealth with similar enactments. One result was to increase the popularity of the crab. This is now caught and canned in colossal quantities in Texas, Florida and Maryland, while the live animals in the New York market are brought from the vast belt of coast which starts at Nova Scotia and goes as far south as South Carolina. Unlike its cousins, the bivalves, the crab varies but little in differ-

ent localities.

The best, according to epicures, are the from the Great South bay of Long Island and Barnegat bay in New Jersey. These long and shallow bodies of water contain an inexhaustible supply. There is also a growing demand and supply of shrimps prawns. These smaller crustacea are rapidly coming into favor not only as dishes, but also for soups, stews, salads and sauces. The best shrimps are from Texas, and the best prawns from Florida. Singular to relate, the finest specimens that appear in the market are those from the Chinese colonies which have settled along the shores of the Gulf of Mexico. illustration of this new taste is seen in the bills of fare of the fashionable restaurants of New York. Shrimp and prawn appear there in bisque, salad, sauce and omelet. It is only a question of time before they appear likewise in the menus of the west and northwest. FALES-CURTIS.

BILL NYE ON A WHEEL

He Relates His Thrilling Experience With

a Real Bicycle. Possibly it may not interest the readers of this paper to know it, but I have been, dur-ing the past three weeks, learning to ride the biovels without a master. I do it in the evening, in the barn on my estate on Staten Island. That is why the barn is reputed to be haunted. Strange sounds are said to emit themselves from this barn and loud thumps; also walls of the damned. Boys who used to go there and shoot cats now go elsewhere. They cannot bear to wrestle with the supernatural or listen to the wail of a damned soul,

they say. I got a very large wheel, because I run somewhat to legs and could propel an enormous vehicle, if I could once maintain a good poise. I have forgotten what size the wheel is. It strikes me that it is seventy-two inches in diameter. I mean the large wheel, of The smaller wheel is less large. This small wheel is used mainly for tipping up and

ozzing in the air when the machine goes ver, which is quite often. I have a stage leg which looks well behind the footlights, but is most too boneless to work well on a bicycle. It droops too much. So does the other one. When I get to think-ing about the propulsive power, I forget the heim, and when I once more allow my mind to revert to the heim, I become rattled and fall off in an oblique manner.

I first began to ride the bicycle about a 96

year ago, not in public, but as a means of personal relaxation. It was a smaller instru-ment than the one I have now, but good. It was in every way equal to this one and had a little flat oil can and an alarm on the withers, which could be rung in case I should be crossing a railroad at night and desired the engineer of an approaching train to save himself by instant flight.

This bicycle I gave to the physician who set my leg for me. He did it so well that I gave him the instrument, together with the wrench I had received while falling from it. He loans it to the boys of his neighborhood and is building up a good practice in com-pound and communicated fractures, hernias and concussions.

at the twilight hour. He rode down Mr. Gryme's celebrated hill, and killed a child and a cow. He had forgotten how to play on the brake. He offered to replace the child with one whose mother he had treated pro-fessionally up to the hour of her death. But he could not manage it that way. So he set-tled for the child, and now keeps the bicycle mainly to loan to boys who otherwise might

climb his fruit trees.

My new machine looks well. It is what we wheelmen call a full nickel machine. I have had my photograph taken with it. That is, in company with it. It is a beautiful picture. You can easily tell which is the bicycle. The portrait was made by a friend bicycle. The portrait was made by a friend of mine who has a homeopathic photograph outfit. He is quite clever with it. He is a Wall street operator. His father was so be-fore him. His father operated on Wall street before anybody else. He used to sprinkle Wall street. My friend does not make his living by photography. He makes his money beneaths by seculation but decrees of honestly by speculation, but desires, of course, to have some means of obtaining a livelihood in case of reverses. So he is taking pictures by the dry plate process.

He got a good picture of my wheel and myself the other day. I wore my wheelman's

uniform. I bought my uniform before I got the wheel, and looked so well in it that I concluded to buy myself a bleycle and learn to

ride upon it.

I belong to a club, but do not figure in it very much, except at the festive board, where I frequently speak or preside. I also belong to an athletic club, which has made me quite robust. Formerly I had very poor health but of latterly I am almost too healthy. I go to the evening sessions of my athletic club, and when I go home at night I feel real hope

Bicycling is a noble sport. Some day I am going to go around the world and take my wheel with me in a shawl strap. Bicycling tones up the muscles, enlarges the lung area and teaches one self reliance. If I could only ride on my bicycle I am confident that it would benefit me. It certainly benefits the bicycle to ride on me, and it is a mighty poor rule that will not work both ways. Our wheel club takes a spin, as we call it,

week to some remote point, eating lunch at the further point, and then returning in the gathering gloom. I go sometimes in a hausom cab, and take part in the lunch.
I am a great admirer of manly sports, and used frequently to jar the back teeth of a sandbag of an evening or climb a horizontal bar and gently fall off again. I was expelled from my first athletic club because I used to fall on the mattress in the early part of the evening and remain there until time to go

home, thereby preventing other athletes from practicing on the mattress. My machine has no cog wheels or chain at-tachments. It is the old fashioued, hump houldered bicycle, with steel running gear This fall I am going fox bunting on it, if I

I swang the Indian clubs last year. It benefited me a great deal. Formerly I had operated a scroll saw and had made a lot of fayance and things, among which were a hollywood clock, with a wealth of holes in it, and other little articles of vertu, including a bas relief-bass wood-of myself. In swing clubs I obliterated these things, es pecially the clock; and so I regard the Indian proper hands, of which we are at present inormed. I also have a set of dumb bells, which I use to keep the door open in summer time, thus giving a free circulation of fresh nir. In this way the dumb bell is a great

It could also be pleasantly and profitably placed in the church towers throughout our land, thus adding to our general health by taking the place of the more clamorous bell of the dead past. The church bell, like the tin dinner horn, has outlived its usefulness, and I fear that the man who has to be reminded, by having the whole top of his he lifted off, that it is time to pray will have to be assisted out of his grave on resurrection day by means of explosives which will cost more than the result will warrant.-Bill Nye

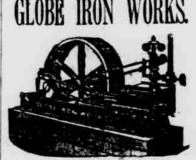
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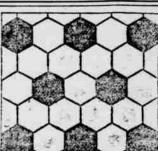
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